



Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program

The ability of the region to diversify and strengthen its economic and resource base, and thus to compete internationally, depends to a significant degree on the capacity of its leadership. The Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program is a major initiative aimed at growing that leadership in our region and ensuring its future.

Objectives

The Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program aims to foster the development of a vigorous network of community and business leaders by:

- Offering potential and emerging leaders an intensive annual program which explores the major issues and opportunities within our regional community
- Providing participants from a wide range of business and community backgrounds with an opportunity to develop mutual understanding and respect in an environment that is stimulating, supportive and enjoyable
- Enabling participants to interact with and learn from existing leaders
- Enhancing participants' leadership skills and developing region wide networks

The Program

Since 1999 the AVCLP has been widely recognised for its ability to assist emerging leaders become more effective in leading their communities.

Over a ten month period, from July to May the following year, the program explores opportunities and resources available to the region, the role of residents of the North East in the regional, state and national future and investigates personal leadership attributes and lifestyles.

It does this through structured events and activities designed to enable participants to discuss and debate issues among themselves and with invited speakers. Speakers are current leaders who demonstrate strong leadership skills and knowledge of the issues affecting the region. The program also includes weekend retreats, a Melbourne visit and Leadership Skills Workshops.

Participants are expected to bring with them a commitment to the community and a demonstrated willingness to rise to the challenge of growing confidence and prosperity in the region. There is broad scope for personal development.

Issues explored throughout the year are developed in conjunction with candidates and are likely to include:

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| * regional development | * education and health |
| * the environment | * political landscapes |
| * business and industry | * arts and culture |
| * human needs and services | * media |
| * ethics | * social justice issues |
| * quality of life matters | * community capacity building |
| * the rural economy | * young people |

The program is an initiative of regional economic, community and agency groups. It was modelled on the Williamson Community Leadership Program and Fairley Leadership Program. It also draws on the experiences of the Australian Rural Leadership Program.

Outcomes for Participants

By building networks which cross regional, state, national boundaries and industry boundaries participants will be better equipped to lead their communities in the future.

Participants can expect to achieve:

- Personal growth
- Leadership skills development
- Increased knowledge of regional business, industry and community networks
- Greater understanding of the region's social, economic and environmental resources
- Membership in an increasing network of program graduates

Selection of Participants

The selection process aims to identify those individuals best suited to developing and applying their leadership skills for the long term benefit of the regional community. Such candidates will have demonstrated:

- A capacity for leadership and self motivation
- Broad ranging interests
- The ability to commit the time and energy required to participate fully in the program
- Confidence in the region, in its capacity to prosper and in themselves to effect change in local communities
- A record of community activity or the ability to express a genuine interest in becoming more involved in the regional community

Candidates need to be of sound character, display a high level of honesty and integrity and be willing to consent to a police check. Each course comprises of 20-28 participants. Participants are selected from a variety of backgrounds.

Geographic Region Covered

Participants come from across the north east and border region. This includes the local government areas of Alpine Shire, Albury City, Benalla Rural City, Indigo Shire, Mansfield Shire, Towong Shire, Rural City of Wangaratta, City of Wodonga, the alpine resorts of Mt Hotham and Falls Creek and border regions of southern NSW. Program days are held at venues spread across the region.

Commitment

Participants are expected to attend at least 80% of the scheduled events and activities of the program in order to graduate. Program dates and locations are provided to successful candidates as soon as possible to ensure that every opportunity exists to keep these dates free.

Cost

The cost of the AVCLP for 2010/2011 is \$3,500 +GST.

Individuals who do not have a sponsor and/or are unable to pay the full fee are encouraged to discuss sponsorship opportunities prior to applying for the course. The program can help match participants to sponsors. The program endeavours to support access for all emerging leaders.

Application Process

Application forms are available from www.avclp.org.au or can be obtained by contacting the executive officer on 0417 348 547 or admin@avclp.org.au . Applications close 30th April. Extended to 14th May 2010